

REQUIREMENTS FOR KHRUSHCHEV VISIT

FOR HYBRID CORN CONCERN

Background:

The Soviet press has announced that production of corn harvesting combines in 1958 was only 6,100 units, or 19 percent of 1957 production. The reason for this drop is not clear.

Requirements:

1. Does the Soviet Union make extensive use of corn harvesting combines? If so, what percent of the 1958 crop was harvested by combines?
2. How many corn harvesting combines are there in the Soviet Union and how many are to be produced during the Seven-Year Plan? How many in 1959?
3. What type of machine has the Soviet Union found to be the most satisfactory: a 2-row combine or a 3-row combine?
4. Does the Soviet Union have any plans for the development of corn pickers which leave the stalks in the field?

FOR MESTA

A. Background:

The Soviet press has repeatedly stated that a 70,000-ton press is being built. One recent report indicated it had been completed.

Requirements:

1. Has the 70,000-ton press been completed? If so, when?
2. Where is it being used and for what purpose?

B. Background:

In light of the experience (and difficulties) of the USSR in the 1950's in producing and installing rolling mills, it appears that Seven-Year Plan goals for production of rolling mills and installation of required capacity will be difficult to attain. It also seems that great burdens will be placed upon machine builders for making major technological improvements -- mechanization, automation and design of highly productive equipment.

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Requirements:

1. How much production of rolling mills during the Seven-Year Plan will be required to meet planned goals for new capacity and rolled goods production?
2. How much help will be expected from mechanization, automation and new designs for highly productive equipment?
3. What are plans for adding new machine building capacity to help meet goals for rolling mill production?
4. What kind of help will be expected in the form of imports of equipment? From the Bloc? From the West?

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